

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 ATHENS 06684 122144Z

21

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 OMB-01 DPW-01 IO-14 AID-20 DRC-01 /138 W

----- 124363

R 121610Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5468

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ATHENS 6684

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, GR

SUBJ: SEVENTEEN POLICE OFFICIALS SUSPENDED BY MINISTER
PUBLIC ORDER IN WAKE OF "TORTURE" ALLEGATIONS

REF: ATHENS 6648

1. OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT SEPTEMBER 11 REPORTED
SUSPENSION OF EIGHT POLICE OFFICERS AND NINE GENDARMERIE
OFFICERS FOR PERIODS RANGING FROM 3 TO 12 MONTHS. MINISTRY
OF PUBLIC ORDER DECLARED IT HAD CONDUCTED INVESTIGATION
INTO BEHAVIOR OF VARIOUS POLICE AND SECURITY CADRES DURING
PAST "ANOMALOUS SEVEN YEAR PERIOD", ON BASIS OF WHICH IT
ESTABLISHED THAT CERTAIN OFFICIALS--"LUCKILY VERY FEW"--
HAD BEEN IRREPRABLY BLACKENED IN EYES OF PUBLIC OPINION.
EFFECT THIS UNFAVORABLE COMMENTARY, STATEMENT CONTINUED,
WAS THAT SECURITY SERVICES THEMSELVES WOULD BECOME
AVERSELY AFFECTED UNLESS AFFECTED OFFICERS PLACED
ON SUSPENSION WITH "FURTHER JUDGMENT TO FOLLOW UNDER
EXISTING REGULATIONS."

2. WHILE MINISTRY STATEMENT ASSERTED THAT IT HAD CARRIED
OUT INVESTIGATION AS MATTER OF SERVICE DUTY, IT ALSO
ADMITTED THAT IT RESPONDED TO "GENERAL PUBLIC FEELING
AND WIDESPREAD DEMAND FOR EXAMINATION OF POLICE BEHAVIOR"
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 ATHENS 06684 122144Z

IN RECENT YEARS. ANNOUNCEMENT ALSO STATED THAT INVESTIGATION

WAS CONDUCTED MAINLY ON BASIS OF REPORTS AND DESCRIPTIONS PUBLISHED
IN PRESS AND PERIODICALS.

3. MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENT FOLLOWS BY A DAY MINISTER GHIKAS
STATEMENT THAT "THOSE WHO HAVE MADE OTHERS SUFFER WILL
THEMSELVES SUFFER." WHILE ACTION IN CASE OF SEVENTEEN
OFFICIALS--ALL OF WHOM WERE ASSIGNED TO THE SECURITY ARMS
OF POLICE OR GENDARMERIE--CONSTITUTES TYPE OF ADMINISTRATIVE
PUNISHMENT, GHIKAS HAS ALREADY LET IT BE KNOWN THAT
INDIVIDUAL CITIZENS SHOULD FEEL FREE TO LODGE COMPLAINTS
AND FILE CHARGES AGAINST INDIVIDUAL OFFICIALS. FACT THAT
MINISTRY HAS NOW OFFICIALLY RECOGNIZED AT LEAST SOME
FORM OF IMPROPRIETY ON PART THESE SEVENTEEN OFFICIALS MIGHT
CONSTITUTE ONLY BRIEF PRELUDE TO LODGING OF MORE SERIOUS
AND WIDER RANGING COMPLAINTS BY INDIVIDUAL CITIZENS IN THESE AND
OTHER CASES. MINISTRY PUBLIC ORDER
HAS NO JURISDICTION OVER MILITARY SECURITY OFFICIALS;
ACCORDINGLY, IT LIKELY THAT PUBLIC ATTENTION WILL NOW BE
DIRECTED ON PRIME SUSPECTS WITHIN RANKS OF MILITARY
POLICE (ESA), SOME OF WHOM HAVE ALREADY GAINED NOTORIETY
THROUGH PUBLISHED ACCOUNTS THEIR VICTIMS (MINIS, FLEMING,
ETC.) ALLEGING VARIETY ATROCITIES. CONCOMITANT PRESSURE
MIGHT NOW BE FELT BY MINISTER DEFENSE TO INITIATE AT MINIMUM
APPROPRIATE ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION IN THEIR CASES, TOO.

4. CONTRARY TO PRESS SPECULATION (REFTEL) THAT GOG
ITSELF WOULD BOTH INITIATE AND DIRECT EFFORT TO UNCOVER AND
PROSECUTE ALLEGED TORTURERS, IT STILL APPEARS THAT
BALL BASICALLY IN COURT OF AGGRIEVED VICTIMS AND THAT
STATE WILL LOOK TO THEM TO INITIATE CRIMINAL CHARGES.
TASCA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: HUMAN RIGHTS, COURTS, ALLEGATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 12 SEP 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: kelleyw0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974ATHENS06684
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740255-0945
From: ATHENS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740953/aaaabsxr.tel
Line Count: 92
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: ATHENS 6648
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: kelleyw0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 15 MAY 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <15 MAY 2002 by martinml>; APPROVED <17 MAR 2003 by kelleyw0>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SEVENTEEN POLICE OFFICIALS SUSPENDED BY MINISTER PUBLIC ORDER IN WAKE OF "TORTURE" ALLEGATIONS
TAGS: PINS, GR
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005